



17555 PEAK AVENUE MORGAN HILL, CALIFORNIA 95037

CITY OF MORGAN HILL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hardt-Mason called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair Hardt-Mason, Vice Chair Leiser, Commissioner Aragon, Commissioner Cheek, Commissioner Hagiperos and Commissioner van Keulen

DECLARATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

Chair Hardt-Mason certified that the meeting agenda was duly noticed and posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Dixon, Morgan Hill Youth Sports Alliance, spoke about a scholarship of \$2,500 that is being offered to 11 students in Morgan Hill. Principals will select 5 students per school and the 55 essays will be judged. Eleven students will be selected to receive scholarships. The student will select their top sports and organizations and then the winners selected will have the money go to that organization on behalf of the student. Morgan Hill Youth Sport Alliance is also trying to develop a sports calendar. More information is available at the web site: www.mhysa.org. MHYSA is also trying to organize a skate and bike club. There have been 25 people who have expressed an interest so far.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Hagiperos made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Aragon seconded the motion. Motion carried (6:0).

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2009.

Minutes were approved with changes. Two Abstained. Motion carried (4:0).

BUSINESS

2. DECOMMISSIONING OF BMX PARK-CHANGE USE OF PROPERTY TO COMMUNITY GARDENS, Mori Struve, Deputy Director of Public Works

Recommended Actions: 1) receive report and 2) form recommendation to City Council.

Mori Struve, Deputy Director of Public Works, described the proposed transition of the BMX Park to be a community garden. Sherrie Wren, President of the Board of Directors of The Morgan Hill Community Garden, was present at the meeting. Commissioner Hagiperos asked what would happen to the slab at the property. Mori Struve said that there are no plans to change the slab at this time. Commissioner Aragon mentioned that The Morgan Hill Community Garden was asking for assistance in moving their structures should VTA wish to use the land. Mori Struve said that VTA is not interested in developing the property at this time. There was some discussion, and concern was expressed by several Commissioners, that should the community garden need to be moved that there would be no unexpected costs to the city of Morgan Hill for their move.

Commissioner Hardt-Mason asked if raised beds are being planned for the gardens. Commissioner Hagiperos asked how the watering bill would be divided between respective gardeners and be paid. Commissioner Van Keulen asked how the water bill and garden plots would be managed. Mori Struve said that the City of San Jose has several very successful community gardens and that their gardens would be used to help model the one being developed for this plot of land in Morgan Hill. Sherrie Wren said that the local health community favors community gardens for promoting health and diet. San Jose has a strong demand for their community garden. She envisions raised beds and easily identified perimeters.

According to Sherrie, Manuel Peres, who is the manager of San Jose Community Gardens, said 600 sq foot plots are a manageable size. This property is less than a 1/3 of an acre. Approximately 10-15 family plots would fit into the space. Sherrie Wren explained that the Community Garden Board would be responsible for the garden's water bill and the collection of appropriate costs from the gardeners as well as management of the beds. To clarify, the annual water bill is typically billed in monthly installments to the gardeners.

Commissioner Cheek mentioned that the city of Hollister has a community garden that is not well maintained. It was used as an example of what to be concerned about. Commissioner Aragon stated that the old BMX Park is a good location for a community garden due to the level of high density housing nearby. Commissioner Hagiperos mentioned that The Community Garden Board may want to consider other sites in Morgan Hill for additional gardens that have been planted and are no longer being used. Sherrie Wren mentioned that another attractive feature about the location being discussed is that there is already an existing fence in place.

COMMENT CARD: Al Roybal talked about developing a private bike park. He works with Jump to Jump and provided information about the National Bicycle League. He proved the information to Mori Struve. Al Roybal said that he would like to develop a BMX park on the site and that there would be no cost to the city for the proposed BMX park at this site or at another. Members would pay a fee to ride in the park. The web site for the National Bicycle League information is: www.nbl.org.

Commissioner Cheek said that perhaps the area where Uesugi Pumpkin Patch is would be a good area to have a BMX Park. There was a comment that it is too soon to discuss development of this area.

ACTION: Commissioner Van Keulen made a Motion to decommission the BMX park and change the use to a Community Garden. Commissioner Hagiperos seconded. Motion carried (6:0)

3. 2010 CITY BIKE MAP, David Gittleson, Associate Engineer

Recommended Action(s): 1) review draft 2010 City Bike Map and 2) and provide recommendations for City Council for approval to begin reproduction and distribution.

Julie Behzad spoke about the development of the bike map. She provided sample maps to the Commissioners. In May, of 2008, the staff worked with BTAC to create the updated map. There was a lot of input from BTAC and staff is waiting for a grant opportunity to print the maps. In August of 2009, a grant of approximately \$8,500 was received. Suggested changes were made to the maps. Commissioner Aragon requested suggested routes be put on the maps for destinations such as downtown Morgan Hill. Julie Behzad said that it was considered but was not added to the final design. Ms. Behzad had checked with other agencies and other bike maps do not show suggested routes to local destinations. It was requested to make Highway 101 bolder. Commissioner Van Keulen suggested that a scale of 1/10 mile be made to judge distance and to note elevation changes. Commissioner Hardt-Mason noted that some of the private schools in the map had changed names.

ACTION: Commissioner Aragon made a Motion to recommend the map, with the changes mentioned, to the City Council for approval to begin reproduction and distribution. Commissioner Cheek seconded. Motion carried (6:0)

4. WORKPLAN REVIEW AND UPDATE, Chair Hardt-Mason

Recommended Action: review the work plan and update as necessary.

Commissioner Hardt-Mason asked the Commissioners to review the 2009-2010 PRC Workplan. Due to the bi-monthly PRC meetings, it was discussed that the work plan dates should be adjusted to align with the PRC meetings over the next 14 months. Commissioner Hardt-Mason met with Chris Ghione and Steve Rymer in December and began to develop a liaison chart of contacts for the work plan. All the Commissioners agreed to review the work plan and discuss at the March PRC meeting any revisions that need to be made for completion dates due to the adjusted meeting calendar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Cheek said that the Morgan Hill Police Department has a new Community Service Officer contact for the BMX Park. There have been some accidents at the BMX Park and juveniles smoking marijuana.

Commissioner Leiser mentioned that outdoor landscaping changes are being made at the Aquatic Center.

Commissioner Hagiperos submitted her resignation to the Parks and Recreation and said that this will be her last meeting. She has been on the commission for 11 years. Commissioner Van Keulen mentioned

that Commissioner Hagiperos should be recognized for all she has done for the community. The Commission thanked Commissioner Laura Hagiperos for her service and help with the community and commented that she will be missed.

FUTURE COMMISSION INITIATED AGENDA ITEMS:

Note: in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a), there shall be no discussion, debate and/or action taken on any request other than providing direction to staff to place the matter of business on a future agenda.

Commissioner Cheek requested to discuss using the Pumpkin Patch for a BMX park. Chris Ghione said that it may be too soon to discuss this as the purchase is still going on. Commissioner Aragon suggested that Steve Rymer, Mori Struve and Chris Ghione all talk with Al Roybal about the potential for BMX development.

Commissioner Cheek requested that the School Superintendent come to the next Parks and Recreation meeting in March to talk about improved communication between MHUSD and the City of Morgan Hill and developing park and recreation programs that would benefit everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Hardt-Mason adjourned the meeting to the next Regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on **March 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.** in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill.

MINUTES RECORDED and PREPARED BY:

PRC Vice Chair Kimberly Leiser